Remarks/Arguments:

This response does not add, cancel or amend any claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added or suggested. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-38 will be pending, wherein claims 1 and 20 are independent.

For simplicity, the following comments, arguments and amendments are made in reference to the present application published as U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0274291 A1 of Diomelli (hereinafter Diomelli).

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-13, 17-28, 30, 31 and 35-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,313,617 of Malik et al. (hereinafter Malik) in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,411,685 of O'Neal (hereinafter O'Neal).

As noted by the Applicant's earlier response, the Malik reference describes a system and method for the management of communications and information resources of a user. To do so, the system and method provides a resource manager to perform a number of tasks such as controlling participation and tracking of user communications, and maintaining related information such as a message log, directory, calendar, and so forth (see Abstract). Such a communications and information resource (CIR) manager 10 can be implemented in or through the use of a user's personal computer 24 (see Fig. 2, and col. 2, lines 1-2), and can perform a list of communication related services (see col. 2, lines 60-67 to col. 3, lines 1-6).

The CIR manager of the Malik reference is described as a computer program provided with and executed upon a user's computer (see col. 4, lines 62-67 to col. 5, lines 1-11), that can be linked to a PC, PSTN 38 and/or the Internet 26 (see again, Fig. 2). Specifically, the CIR manager is described as linked or otherwise in communication with other PCs, PSTN and/or Internet networks (see for example, col. 10, lines 19-45, and Fig. 2). The application program of the CIR manager is described in limited detail at col. 11, lines 64-67 to col. 12, lines 1-6, and col. 14, lines 26-32. One feature of the application program of such a CIR

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manager is unified messaging (see col. 16, lines 43-46), and data conversions from a native format to a format used by the user (see col. 25, lines 45-50).

However, the system and method of the Malik reference substantially concerns a software (CIR) dedicated to help a *single user* manage the communications related to the communications devices (both data and voice) owning *only to that user*. In contrast, the Applicant recites the system and method wherein the Communications Devices and/or Terminals can be those associated with different users, located at any number of different locations, and which are able to connect, by the internet and a standard browser, to a server (27). Further, the Malik reference does not disclose the managing of the communications by using an Internet Web Browser.

The O'Neal reference does not combine with the system described in Malik to present a prima facie case of obviousness. O'Neal describes a unified messaging service through a server node 10 which can be in communication with user nodes 20 via the web 150, and other systems via a PSTN 160 (see for example, Fig. 1). The user nodes 20 are provided with a browser 26 to communicate with the server node 10 (see for example, col. 6, lines 4-12). Server node 10 can have a web interface 14, web system 112, and telephony system 108 to allow the user node to make telephone calls (see for example, col. 5, lines 13-25 and col. 7, lines 39-57).

However, in doing so, O'Neal sends outgoing telephone calls, allegedly directed by a browser of the user node (see col. 6, lines 11-12), using the PSTN system only (see col. 7, lines 39-40 and 55-57). There is no description of the sending of telephone messages via any other communication system directed by a browser of a user node. For example, the telephony system of O'Neal is responsible for incoming and outgoing calls (see again, col. 5, lines 24-25) for voice mail or fax mail. Users dialing in through the PSTN system can leave voice messages or issue commands (i.e., voice commands or dual-tone commands) to direct the telephony system to perform specific functions. See col. 7, lines 45-54.

O'Neal does not permit a user node to initiate, receive, control and manage a communication in synchronous mode; that is, it cannot communicate with other user nodes in

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real time. Such capabilities would be inconsistent with the stated goal of O'Neal of a unified messaging system.

Accordingly, the O'Neal reference fails to describe a system and method wherein *all the* plurality of Communications Devices and/or Terminals *inbound and outbound communications* are initiated, received, controlled and managed by *using an Internet Web Browser*. Such a teaching cannot be combined with the Malik system to form a prima facie case of obviousness of the invention in the present claims. Pointedly, even where O'Neal allegedly describes a plurality of devices and some control via an Internet Web Browser, neither O'Neal nor Malik describe the system and method of pending claims 1 and 20 wherein all the plurality of devices "*inbound and outbound* communications are initiated, received, controlled and managed by using an Internet Web Browser".

Dependent claims 2-13, 17-19, 21-28, 30, 31, and 35-38 are similarly patentable over the combined teachings of Malik and O'Neal.

As to dependent claim 30, the Examiner points to Fig. 3 of Malik as describing the recited elements. This is incorrect. The interfaces of Malik fail to recite the entire array of channels as recited in claim 30. For example, some of the interfaces of the Malik reference are simply provided to link PC 50 with keyboards, mouse and disk drivers. The linking interfaces are limited to the network interface and serial port interface, shown linking PC 50 with remote computer 100 (see again, Fig. 3). In doing so, the system and method of the Malik reference fail to describe the channels as recited by the Applicant in claim 30.

Such a system and method permits the server to support communications, route outbound communications towards the communications channels (16-22) on the basis of the communications protocols stored in the storage section (23), receive inbound communications through the related communications channel and then route them to the addressee Communications Device and/or Terminal in function of the settings associated with the addressee, as stored in the storage section (23). Further, such a system and method permits the server to support communications, route outbound communications towards the communications channels (16-22) via the different couplings of each (see for example, the

couplings between 16-22 and mobile network 25, fixed network 26, and LAN network 1. As such, the provision of the interfaces as described by Malik, fail to describe the system and method as recited having the communications channels 16-22.

Dependent claims 2-13, 17-19, 21-28, 30, 31, and 35-38 depend from one of independent claims 1 or 20. These dependent claims are thereby patentable over Malik and O'Neal for the same reasons presented in connection with claims 1 and 20, supra. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of these dependent claims is warranted for the same reasons.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 14-16 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malik and O'Neal, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,411 of Robinson et al.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malik in view of O'Neal and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0041048 of Balasuriya (hereinafter Balasuriya).
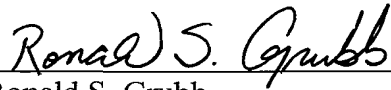
For the reasons stated above, the Applicant asserts that the Malik and O'Neal references do not present a prima facie case of obviousness for independent claims 1 and 20, from which claims 14-16, 29 and 32-34 depend. These dependent claims are thus patentable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 20. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of dependent claims 14-16, 29 and 32-34.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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